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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SAO PAULO 001745

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR
MILLER TO BRAZIL

REF: SAO PAULO 1870

Classified By: This message has been classified by Labor Officer
Patric

k Del Vecchio. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Begin Summary: Special Ambassador John Miller visited Brazil November 29-December 3 to survey Brazilian efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Ambassador Miller found that Brazilian efforts to educate and raise awareness have been outstanding in many areas, but more needs to be done (including changes in legislation) to arrest, convict and imprison traffickers. Brazil also is in the process of improving its efforts for offering counseling, education and vocational education for victims. Ambassador Miller had a receptive audience for his arguments that international cooperation and changing attitudes among those who frequented prostitutes were necessities in dealing with trafficking. End Summary.

12. (C) Special Ambassador John Miller visited Brazil November 29-December 3 to survey Brazilian efforts at combating trafficking in Persons. Program officer Linda Brown accompanied Ambassador Miller during visits to Foz do Iguacu, Sao Paulo, Goiania and Brasilia. Subsequently a DOJ/DHS team led by Anne Estrada visited Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Recife, Fortaleza, Goiania, Brasilia and Foz do Iguacu during the period December 1-11 (reported septel).

Foz do Iguacu

13. (C) In Foz on November 30, Ambassador Miller visited one of the Sentinela centers for sexually abused and exploited minors. The center serves as a reference center for children and adolescents, who are evaluated and then given counseling, medical attention, and other services. Later, Ambassador Miller met with the Committee to Combat Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Foz. The Committee outlined the way government and non-governmental organizations in Foz work together to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of minors (nearly always trafficked). Ambassador Miller also saw a presentation by an educational outreach group that carried an awareness campaign concerning trafficking into schools.

Sao Paulo

13. (C) December 1, Ambassador Miller visited the newly established Sao Paulo State Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The State of Sao Paulo established the office after several conferences bringing together NGOs, media, government, and international experts on the problem of trafficking. The Public Affairs section of the Consulate played a key role in helping get the office up and running, both supporting the two meetings and providing an initial grant of 20,000 dollars to the office. Ambassador Miller toured the office and learned that among other activities, it has arranged for the Federal Police to insert a leaflet in each new issued passport warning of trafficking, and that the office will have a reference center at the Sao Paulo international airport for victims who have been trafficked internationally and are returning to Brazil.

14. (C) Ambassador Miller also met with the State Secretary for Justice, Rafael Moreira, and subsequently held a joint press conference (covered by five national media outlets). Ambassador Miller and the State Secretary emphasized the need for international collaboration in ending the problem and cited the office as a good example of the kind of cooperation that can make a difference--as the office resulted from efforts from the Sao Paulo State Government, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the USG and the NGOs. At a lunch with NGO representatives and public prosecutors, among others, Ambassador Miller learned of some of the difficulties of prosecuting trafficking cases in Brazil, given the relatively weak legislation. Ambassador Miller also met with consular representatives of various destination countries to learn

their perspectives on the trafficking.

Goiania

15. (C) December 2 in Goiania Ambassador Miller called on the newly established State Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Ministry of Justice selected the state of Goias as one of its four pilot states for offices to combat trafficking because many women from Goias have been trafficked to Europe, especially Portugal and Spain. The State Prosecutor Laura Bueno explained that the office is in the process of setting up, and will be conducting outreach to warn potential victims. The Federal Police officer in charge of Immigration in the state, Luciano Dornelles explained that he had an on-going investigation involving a ring trafficking to Spain, and that he would be making arrests soon. (As noted reftel, he made the arrests the next day.) He said traffickers took women from Goias exclusively to Europe, and that though smuggling of people including children into the US existed, he had not discovered trafficking of women.

16. (C) Also in Goiania Ambassador Miller visited the headquarters of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) to meet with representatives of the Commission and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The CPT representatives outlined the problem of trafficking men to plantations where they work as forced labor. CRS will execute one of the projects under the President's 50 Million Dollar Initiative, designed to raise awareness concerning trafficking in the locales where recruiters work, to increase legal representation for workers who have been trafficked and liberated, and to begin to generate other employment opportunities for these workers.

Brasilia

17. (C) In Brasilia, Ambassador Miller met with representatives of the office of the National Secretary for Justice. They clarified Brazilian trafficking laws, explaining that the Brazilian penal code outlaws only the international trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, and not any form of internal trafficking, including of workers for forced labor. (Forced labor per se is outlawed, but trafficking for that purpose is not specifically punished.) These laws made prosecuting and convicting traffickers difficult. The Ministry of Justice has proposed changes that would make all types of trafficking subject to criminal penalties. The Brazilian Congress now has the legislation for consideration. The Director of the Labor Inspectorate, Ruth Vilela, confirmed the difficulty of prosecuting traffickers in forced labor, but noted that the government had found other ways to punish them, including denying any form of government-based credit to farms and plantations where forced labor had been found. The Foreign Ministry representative stressed that Brazil regarded trafficking as a serious problem and that the MFA had strengthened the effort to reach out to trafficking victims in Brazilian embassies and consulates located in destination countries. Ambassador Miller concluded by giving an interview with Folha de Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest circulation daily newspaper. He stressed the need for international cooperation, the importance of changing attitudes toward prostitution, and highlighted some of the on-going efforts to combat trafficking in Brazil and other parts of the world.

DEL VECCHIO